

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for briefly discussing the instant Application with Applicant's representatives on May 9, 2003. An Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) was attached with the Advisory Action dated September 29, 2003. During the interview, the Examiner merely clarified his assertions regarding the disclosure of JP 09-002024, and his application of that reference against claims 11 and 12. No claim amendments were proposed or discussed, and no specific agreements were reached.

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application, as claims 14 and 15 are hereby added to provide a more varied scope of protection for the invention. Claim 1 is currently amended.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Cremen
Registration No. 50,855

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 15, 2003